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Cab Driver Tells Story of Bid By Soviet to Plant Him in CIA

Washington, May 28—(AP)—

A Washington taxicab driver has told the Justice Department that a Soviet diplomat promised him "big money" if he went to work for the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency and "completed studies for the Russians."

Department files also disclose that a former State Department employee said he received \$150 from a Soviet official for material dealing with the U. S. foreign service.

Both stories appear to leave much unexplained.

Stephen B. Gleason, 42, the cab driver, and Raoul F. Kulberg, 29, the State Department man, told their stories, they said, when advised by the State Department to register with the Justice Department as Russian agents. Both denied they were agents, but followed the advice.

Embassy Asked for Job

Besides driving a cab, Gleason said, he also is a free-lance writer.

Gleason's statement to the Justice Department said he went to the Soviet Embassy last November and inquired about "employment opportunities." Three weeks later, when he was asked to "prepare two studies for the embassy," Gleason said, he refused.

"This was done in order to stall and obtain information about the Soviet operations," Gleason explained in a statement registering as an agent for a foreign government.

Over the next few weeks, he provided the embassy with "misinformation in order to lead them on."

He added that what he gave the embassy was "opinions and statements so absurd and so far from reality as to be of no value to the Soviet Embassy."

Bottle of Scotch

Gleason did get a bottle of scotch whiskey from the third secretary, Gennadi V. Gavrikov

before Christmas, he said. But of \$200 Gavrikov gave him last January 18, Gleason said.

"This could have been a loan or a gift by an individual with whom I had become friendly, an attempt to get on my good side, or payment for the trouble I had gone to in meeting them, or payment for misinformation supplied."

Gleason first suggested that he go to work for the CIA, he said, and Gavrikov agreed it was a good idea.

"Gavrikov said he would pay me a salary for working with the CIA," said Gleason. "The Russians promise me big money if I completed studies for them, promised to have my books published and to provide trips to Russia."

Gleason said he told the whole story to the CIA and that was the end of it.

Other Man's Story

Kulberg, who gave his address as 126 Hoyt st., Stamford, Conn., said he became friendly with Eugeni A. Zaostrovtsov, second secretary of the Soviet Embassy, in 1958.

"We discussed many topics," he said in his statement of registration. "We both were interested in the background training of foreign service personnel."

Kulberg said he gave the Russians some college catalogues and a congressional report on the U. S. foreign service that he had collected for a class paper. He said Zaostrovtsov wanted to write an article for a Russian journal.

Zaostrovtsov later gave him \$150, saying he had been paid for the article and wanted to share the money, Kulberg said. He said he reported the incident to his employer.

There was no information in the registration file on what Kulberg's job with the State Department was, when it ended, or what he is doing now.

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